

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00  
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03  
/074 W

-----120276 111948Z /47

O R 111517Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0515  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0476

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, IS  
SUBJECT: KNESSET COMMITTEE ACCEPTS GOVT PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT  
ON WEST BANK; SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY CONTINUES ELSEWHERE

REF: TEL AVIV 0330 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
ACCEPTS GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO SET UP FOUR SETTLEMENTS ON WEST  
BANK. MEANWHILE, SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY CONTINUES IN RAFAH  
APPROACHES, AND REPORTEDLY BEGINS IN ABU AWEIGLIA AREA.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE VOTED  
ON JANUARY 10 TO ADOPT GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO SET UP FOUR  
SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK. MOTION BY NRP MK BEN MEIR TO  
ADOPT GOVERNMENT'S PLAN PASSED 14-9-2. VOTING IN FAVOR  
WERE THE LIKUD, NRP, AND MK GROSS OF AGUDAT ISRAEL AND  
DMC MK ZOREA. VOTING AGAINST WERE ALIGNMENT MKS AND

DMC MKS RUBENSTEIN AND TOLEDANO. DMC MK NOF AND LIKUD (LIBERAL) MK TAMIR ABSTAINED. REJECTED WERE MOTIONS BY NOF TO POSTPONE DECISION ON ISSUE FOR THREE MONTHS, BY THE ALIGNMENT TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION AND TIMING OF THE SETTLEMENTS, AND BY RUBENSTEIN AND TOLEDANO TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN.

3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SESSION AND SETTLEMENT ISSUE WITH DMC MK TOLEDANO. HE NOTED THAT DMC HAD CALLED MEETING ON BASIS OF COALITION AGREEMENT PROVISION, WHICH PROVIDED THAT DMC MINISTERS CAN DEMAND THAT FINAL DECISIONS REGARDING SETTLEMENT ON WEST BANK WOULD BE MADE BY COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION MOTIONS WERE DEFEATED, TOLEDANO HAD SOME SATISFACTION WITH MEETING. HE APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE SHARON TO TASK FOR WILLINGNESS TO EXCEED CABINET DECISIONS ON SETTLEMENT AND ON QUESTION OF LAND EXPROPRIATIONS. AT THE VERY LEAST, SHARON KNOWS THAT SOMEBODY IS WATCHING HIS ACTIONS. TOLEDANO ADDED THAT SHARON WOULD BE RETURNING TO THE COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL SETTLEMENT PLANS.

4. TOLEDANO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT UNDUE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE RECENTLY PUBLICIZED ROUND OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY. FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE THIS ACTIVITY -- ALTHOUGH IN-OPPORTUNE AND UNTIMELY -- IS IRRELEVANT TO THE PEACE PROCESS. THE NEXT FEW MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL TELL IF THERE WILL BE PEACE OR NOT. LEVELLING A FEW SAND DUNES AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A NUMBER OF HOUSES WILL NOT AFFECT THIS PROCESS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. IN TOLEDANO'S VIEW, BEGIN HAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD TO THIS PUBLICIZED SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN ORDER TO DEFUSE DOMESTIC CRITICISM.

5. MEANWHILE, SHARON'S ASSISTANT ON SETTLEMENT AFFAIRS (URI BAR ON) TOLD EMBOFF THAT FOUR SETTLEMENTS BEING ESTABLISHED IN ARMY CAMPS ON WEST BANK WILL BE SHILO/KARNEI SHOMORON (SETTLERS ALREADY PRESENT ON SITE), HARIS, TAPUACH, AND SILT A ZAHAR. ALL BUT LAST ALREADY HAVE PERMANENT SITES. FORMER PM RABIN, IN TALK WITH EMBOFFS, MADE NO BONES ABOUT FACT THAT SEVERAL ARMY CAMPS WERE BEING SPECIALLY SET UP TO ACCOMMODATE GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS ON WEST BANK. THE OBJECTIVE, ACCORDING TO RABIN, TO PROVIDE VENEER OF TRUTH TO GOI PROMISE TO USE TO LOCATE NEW SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK ONLY IN ARMY CAMPS. IN ADDITION, HAARETZ CLAIMS THAT YATIR, SOUTH OF HEBRON, IN PROCESS OF BEING DISMANTLED DUE TO INABILITY OF GUSH EMUNIM TO HOLD SETTLEMENT TOGETHER.

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6. JERUSALEM POST REPORTS THAT FIVE EARTH-MOVING VEHICLES  
PREPARING THREE SITES ALONG ROAD FROM BIR LAHFAN TO ABU  
AWEIGLIA, 30 TO 36 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF EL ARISH. (NOTE:  
THIS AREA IN SINAI MILITARY ZONE AND NOT ACCESSIBLE TO  
EMBOFFS WITHOUT PERMIT.) THE POST SAYS THAT AT ONE SITE 12 KM.  
SE OF BIR LAHFAN MOTOR-GRADER CLEARING AREA 200 BY 300 METERS.  
ONE KILOMETER SOUTH ALONG ROAD THREE BULLDOZERS TURNING  
OVER LAND, AND ANOTHER BULLDOZER WORKING 6 KM SOUTH AT ANOTHER SITE.  
THERE WERE ALSO ALLEGEDLY AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF WORK SITES--  
BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN -- ALONG 40 KM OF ROAD STRETCHING  
SOUTH FROM MOSHAV UGDA IN THE SADOT AREA. EARLIER POST REPORT  
NOTES CONTINUING WORK AT THREE SITES NEAR HARUVIT (EAST, WEST  
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AND SOUTH OF MOSHAV), AND AT NEZER HAZANI. WE TRIED TO GET

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM THE DIRECTOR AND SPOKESMAN OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND, THE SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SINAI AND RAFAH, AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SPOKESMAN, BUT ALL EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD SAY ON SUBJECT OTHER THAN THAT WORK WAS BEING CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CABINET INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER, SHARON'S ADVISOR URI BAR ON, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHATEVER WHAT WAS GOING ON IN ABU AWEIGLIA AREA. IN ANY CASE, THIS WORK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KADESH BARNEA SETTLEMENT (WHICH IS A TAYR QUSEIMA).

7. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO RELATE LATEST REPORTED SETTLEMENT-RELATED ACTIVITY IN ABU AWEGLIA AREA TO WHAT GOI HAS TOLD US ABOUT ITS POLICY TO "STRENGTHEN SETTLEMENTS" "IN RAFAH APPROACHES. THERE ARE NO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THIS PART OF SINAI TO "THICKEN." CLOSEST ISRAELI SETTLEMENT IN AREA IS MOSHAV NEOT SINAI, ALTHOUGH SOME FIELDS TENDED BY MOSHAV NEOT SINAI NE OF EL ARISH AIRFIELD (NEAR OLD SITE OF NAHAL SINAI).

8. TOLEDANO'S VIEW ON THE RELATIVE INSIGNIFICANCE OF CURRENT SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN ECHOED BY MANY OF OUR CONTACTS IN RECENT DAYS. YISRAEL HAREL, YEDIOT REPORTER AND GUSH EMUNIM FELLOW-TRAVLER, SUMMED UP ALL THE RECENT SETTLEMENT HOOPLA WITH A "SO WHAT". HAREL EXPLAINED THAT "BEGIN IS A "POLITICIAN" AND FELT THE NEED TO SATISFY CRITICS WITH CONTINUED SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY. BUT, ACCORDING TO HAREL, "WHEN BEGIN HAS TO DELIVER (THE SINAI), HE WILL DELIVER." LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 11 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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